

Feb. 25, 2014

Rep. Susan Johnson
Legislative Office Building
Room 5007
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Ms. Johnson,

I urge you to vote "NO" on
H.B. 5326. Suicide is not the answer
to the problem of human suffering.
All life is sacred and has value.

Assisted suicide is a dangerous
concept that has many unintended
consequences. It can become a tool
for proponents of eugenics to rid the world
of what they see as undesirable people.
We need only to look to Holland to
understand how assisted suicide can
be abused. There can be no safeguards
put in place that cannot be circumvented.

Please vote "NO".

Yours truly,
Jeanne Zee
129 Tanner St.
Manchester, CT 06042

Feb. 25, 2014

Rep. Susan Johnson
Legislative Office Building
Room 5007
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Ms. Johnson,

I urge you to vote "NO" on
H.B. 5326. Suicide is not the answer
to the problem of human suffering.
All life is sacred and has value.

Assisted suicide is a dangerous
concept that has many unintended
consequences. It can become a tool
for proponents of eugenics to rid the world
of what they see as undesirable people.
We need only to look to Holland to
understand how assisted suicide can
be abused. There can be no safeguards
put in place that cannot be circumvented.

Please vote "NO".

Yours truly,

Jeanne Lee

129 Tanner St.

Manchester, CT 06042

Nancy Crumpacker, MD
2351 NW Westover
Portland, OR 97210

February 18, 2014

Representative Susan Johnson
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Representative Johnson,

I am a retired medical oncologist and have served as volunteer medical director of Compassion & Choices - Oregon since 1998.

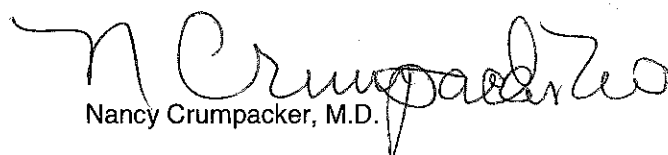
While still in practice I wrote prescriptions for my patients who were eligible to use our Death with Dignity law. Four of my patients self-administered the medication and I was fortunate and honored to attend the deaths of each of them.

One of my patients who participated in the law had spent the past month planning this ending to her full life. She finally felt she was in control of the events of her last days. After my arrival in her home, I asked if she could tell me what would happen after taking the medication. She told me that it would cause her to die. I asked her if this was what she wanted to do. When she said "Yes", I mixed the powdered drug in two ounces of water. I reminded the family that once she swallowed the liquid, she could fall asleep within seconds and encouraged her to say anything she wanted to her family before she drank. I told her that it would be best to drink the mixture in three or four swallows within a minute. Within two minutes she was asleep. We watched her breathing become increasingly shallow and within twenty minutes it had stopped completely. She gave no indication of distress. Family members expressed how grateful they were to be present for her during this peaceful and dignified event.

Another patient was a man who had tried every chemotherapy regimen available, but nothing slowed down his cancer. When he knew there was no other drug to try, he asked if I would write a prescription for him to use under Oregon's law. I told him about hospice care to treat his symptoms and I told him that I would write the prescription if that was his wish. His wife was supportive, and I advised him to discuss this with other family members. Like clockwork, 15 days later, he called my office to make his second request and asked me if I could be with him when he hastened his death. My patient ingested the medicine and went into a coma and died peacefully surrounded by his family and friends.

What is amazing for anyone in attendance is the rapid disappearance of discomfort and worry on the face of the person who has made the decision to take the medication. It's not uncommon for family members to comment on how peaceful their loved one's face has become after days, weeks or months of discomfort. I knew I was bringing an extra measure of peace to my patients and their families and I was also allowed to be their trusted physician until the end of their lives.

Warm Regards,


Nancy Crumpacker, M.D.